

Opening Statement of Congressman Gene Green
House Subcommittee on Energy and Power
“The Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975: Are We Positioning America for
Success in an Era of Energy Abundance?”
December 11, 2014

Good morning.

I want to thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member for holding this hearing today.

I want to thank our witnesses for coming up and testifying today.

Today, we are here to discuss an issue that is very important to the district I represent.

Over my twenty years in Congress, I have, at one time, represented five refineries.

But what people forget is that Houston isn't the refining capital of the world, it's the energy capital over the world.

My district is also home to many upstream drillers and producers and many mid-stream transporters and storage companies as well.

All of these companies have a stake in the policies we discuss today.

The producers are in-the-field, creating jobs and are directly responsible for the U.S. position as the number one producer of oil and gas in the world.

I just want to add that Texas had something to do with that.

The pipeline and storage companies are building like crazy in my district and around the country.

I recently visited a TransCanada facility that is under construction that will hold, when completed 700,000 barrels.

Midstream companies are also investing to build splitters to exports condensate under current law.

I know of approximately 10 announced projects that are set to come online in the next two years.

Finally, the refineries in the country are investing.

There have been another 10 announcement across the Gulf and across the country that will result in additional light capacity.

Also remember that we refining and exporting more product that ever and, according to the Houston Chronicle, directly responsible for doubling U.S. exports of low-sulfur diesel and gasoline which has had a big-time positive effect on our economy.

As we discuss energy policy, we cannot forget about the environment.

We've seen a dramatic shift in other parts of the economy to natural gas which has resulted in positive net benefits for the environment.

There are concerns that production of oil and gas are responsible for significant methane emissions but we saw in yesterday's National Journal that industry has reduced methane by 10 percent from a year ago, so we are seeing progress.

On Tuesday, we saw an article that stated U.S. fuel exports, specifically diesel, have surged under President Obama but this was harming the climate.

Yet, in 2013, Time Magazine stated exports of Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel to Latin America were responsible for improving air quality.

In 2014, we read that Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel exports to Europe double in the first half of this year over 2013.

I have to believe that U.S. production, transport, and refining employ the best, cleanest technologies in the world resulting in the cleanest possible product.

We should continue to focus on the economic and environmental benefits of domestically produced natural resources.

As we review the information we receive today, however, it's important we find the right balance to keep all these sectors running at the highest efficiency.